Evaluation of Coverage of RH Services for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons

Sara Casey, Susan Purdin, Therese McGinn

Heilbrunn Department of Population and Family Health, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

Purpose

- Determine current situation regarding availability of RH services
- Identify the gaps in service provision

Methodology

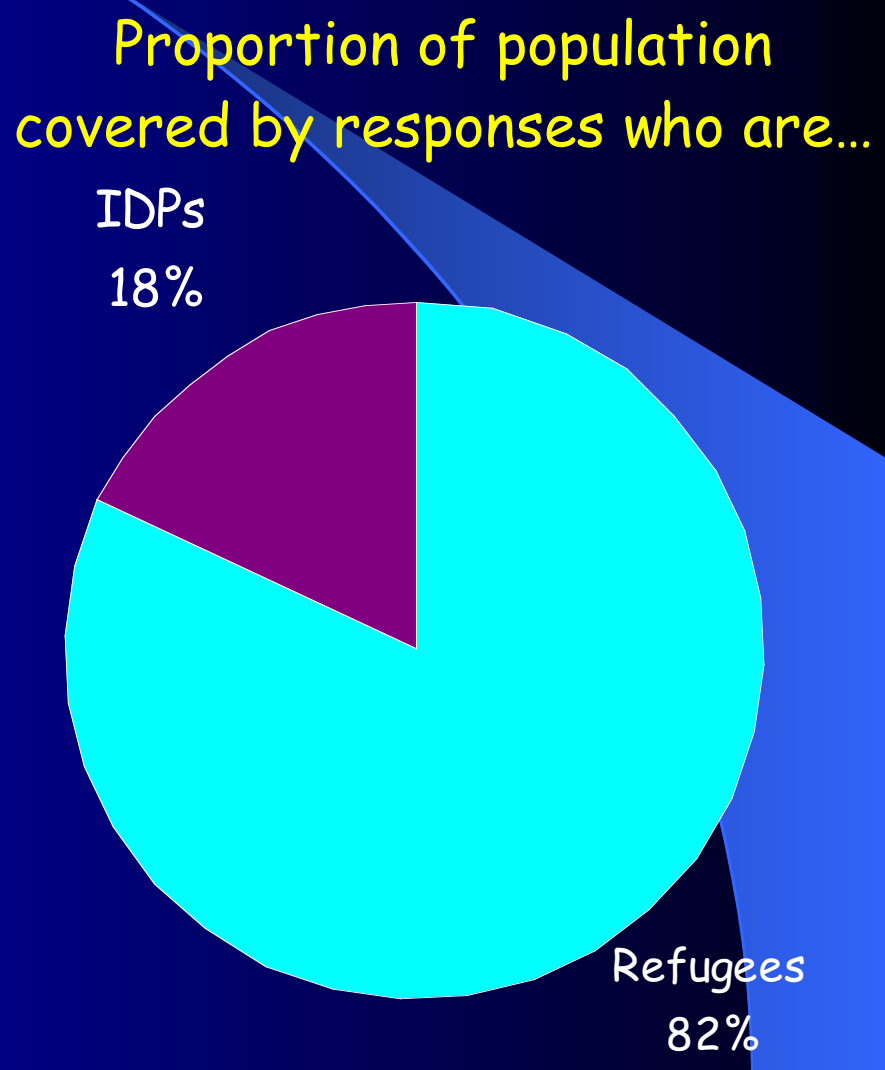
- List of countries and displaced populations compiled
- Countries with a minimum of 10,000 refugees or IDPs included
- OECD countries excluded
- Key informants identified in each country
- Data collection March – May 2003
- Data analysis with EpiInfo 2002

Questionnaires

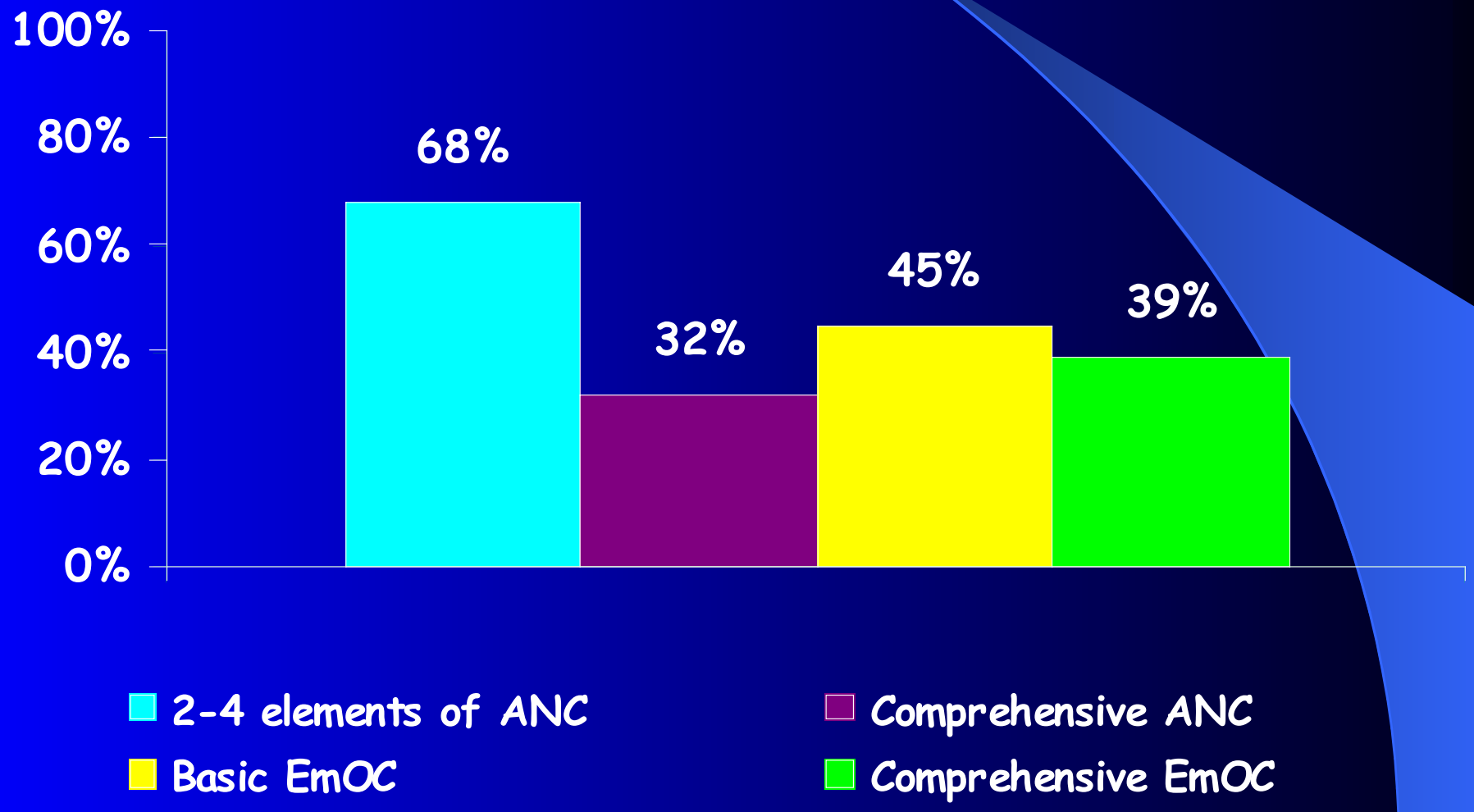
- Form A:
  - List of displaced settlements / camps
- Form B:
  - List of all RH services that may be available to the population
  - Quality or usage not assessed
  - Pre-tested and translated from English into French and Spanish

Results

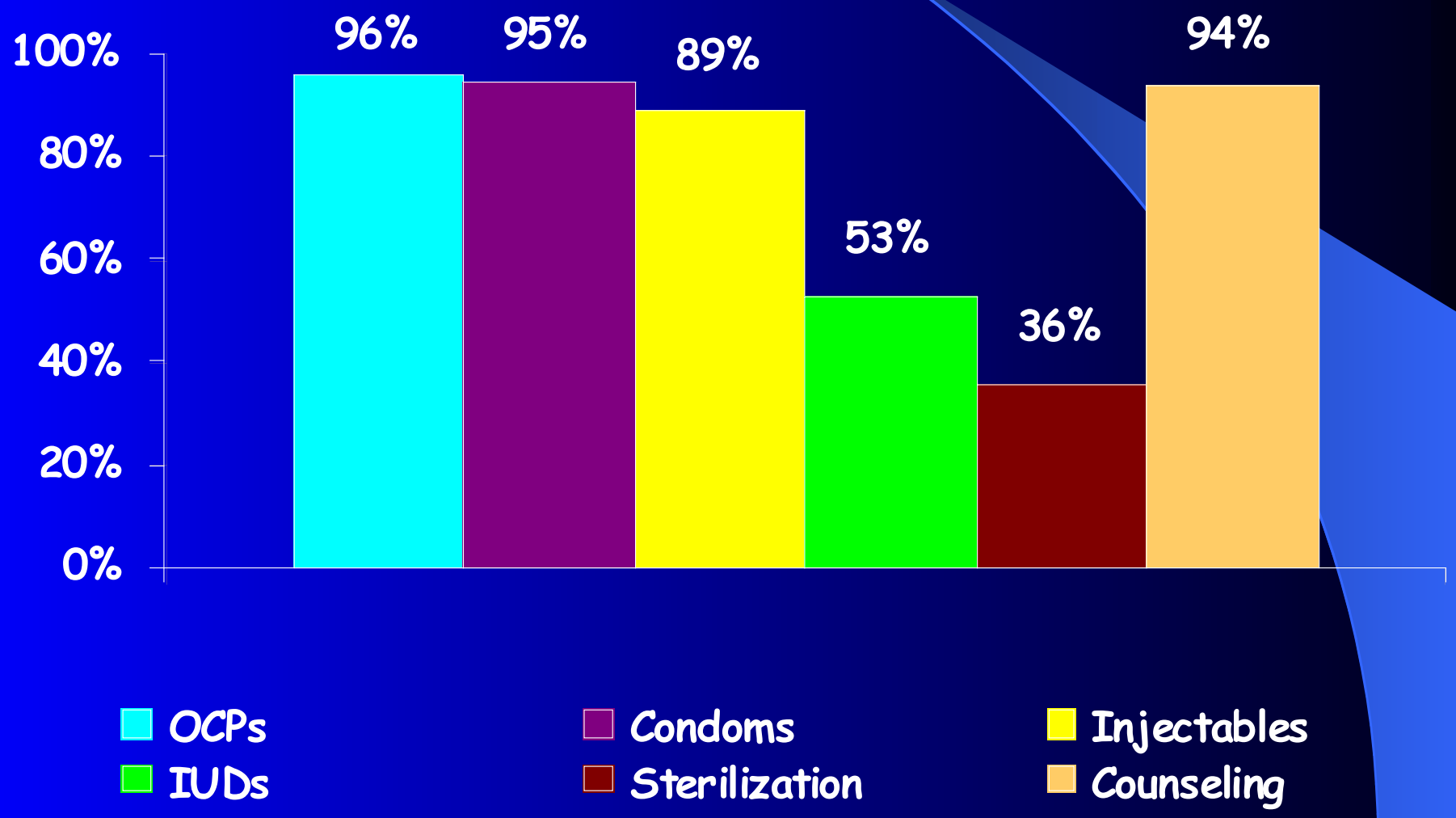
- Distributed in 73 countries
- 188 questionnaires from 33 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America received
- Represents 8.5 million people



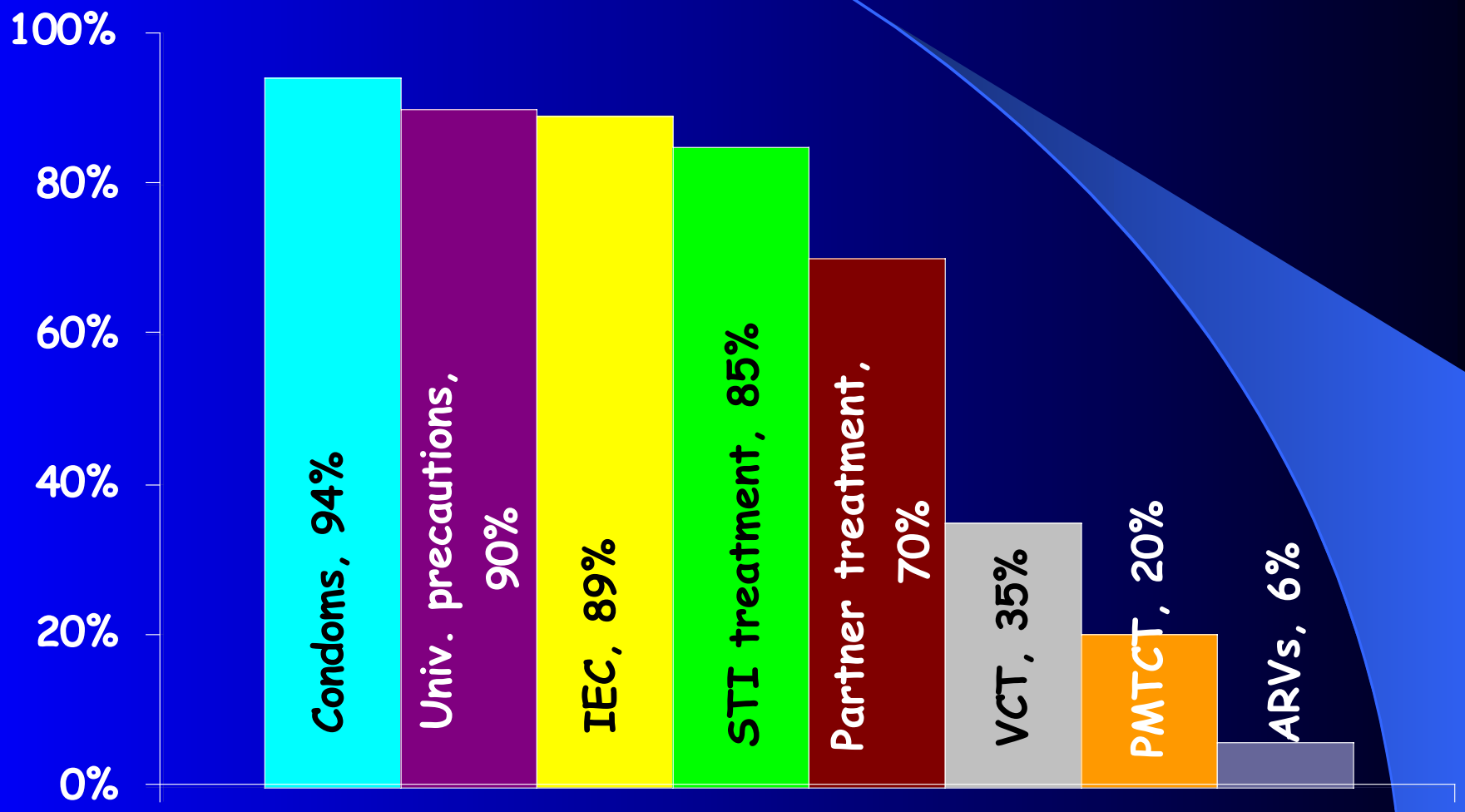
Proportion of sites where Safe Motherhood is available



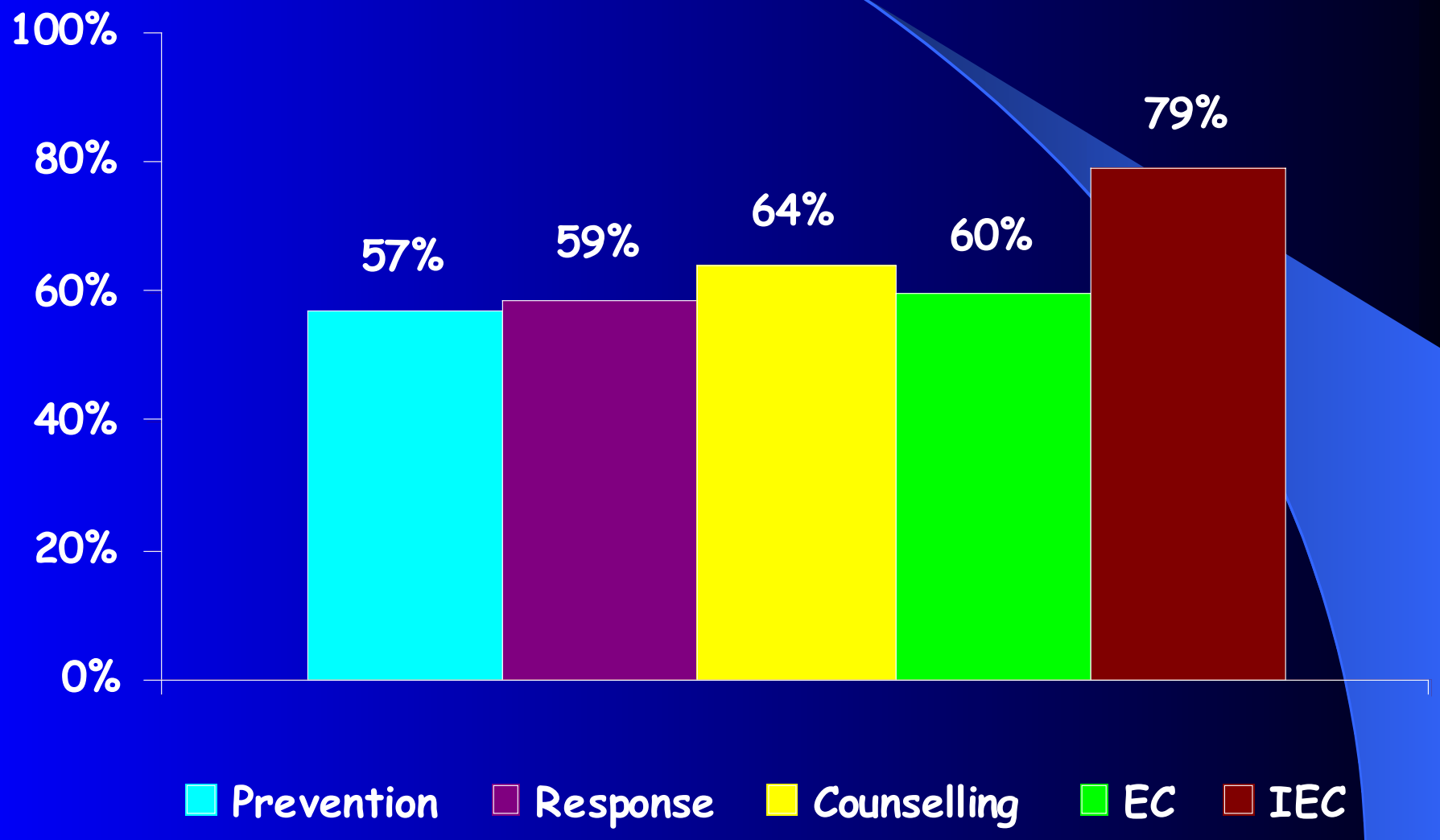
Proportion of sites where FP is available



Proportion of sites where STI/HIV/AIDS services are available



Proportion of sites where GBV services are available



Limitations

- Limited to sites where key informant took time to respond
- Primarily refugees (82%) in camps (76%)
- Assessed only availability, not quality, detailed accessibility or usage
- Yes/No questions could have been interpreted differently
- Info on IDPs more difficult to get
- Population numbers differed between reported and key informants on the ground

Discussion

- Coverage of RH appears fairly good
- Coverage decreases with the newness of the technical area
  - GBV: newest, least familiar, lowest coverage
  - ANC: most standard, highest coverage
- HIV/AIDS, EmOC could (and should) be better

Conclusion

- Given RHR in 1993, results are promising
- Even if overestimation, wide range and meaningful number of sites provide RH services

BUT

- Experience shows that attention must be maintained
- Recommend updating this database regularly